Promotion of Spices

941. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for promoting the spices in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The Government of India is promoting cultivation of major spices vigorously since VIII Plan period with an outlay of Rs. 125.00 crores. The programme is being continued in 1997-98 with an outlay of Rs. 30.00 crores.

Governor for Goa

942. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons as to why a regular Governor has not been appointed for the State of Goa; and

(b) the time by which a regular Governor is proposed to be appointed to facilitate the smooth functioning of the affairs of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Under article 153 of the Constitution of India, the same person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States. The existing arrangement relating to Goa is in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India.

Charter of Demands Given by Kisan Sahayata Morcha

943. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a charter of demands has been given to Prime Minister on January 23, 1996 by the 'Kisan Sahayata Morcha';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Special Allocation for North East

944. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister had directed different Ministries to allocate ten percent of their annual budget for the development of the States of the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the Departments that have allocated ten percent of the budget for the States of the North-East Region during 1996-97;

(c) the Departments that failed to carry out the Prime Minister's directives; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure allocation of ten percent of the budget of each Ministry for the States of the N.E. Region during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Prime Minister had announced the New initiatives on 27 Oct., 96 in which inter-alia, it was indicated that all Central Ministries will earmark 10% of budget for specific programmes in N.E. States. By that time, the annual plan of various Ministries were already finalised and as such, this instruction could not be implemented in all Ministries in 1996-97.

(d) All Ministries have been advised to earmark 10% of their total outlay while preparing 1997-98 Annual Plan.

Naga Problem

945. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem, "Further talks with Naga rebels in Geneva next month" appearing in 'Times of India' dated June 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help in resolving the vexed Naga problem?